

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

TO: Art Schmidt  
Sport Fish  
Sitka  
Dept. of Fish and Game

DATE: June 13, 1975

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Donald L. Stedelman  
Sport Fish  
Ketchikan  
Dept. of Fish and Game

SUBJECT: Keta River Foot Survey, April 24, 1975

Conducted a foot survey of the Keta River after flying into stream via Chopper. Figure the starting point was about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile below Red Creek. The stream bank was covered with about 3-4' snow making walking a little difficult. Air temperature was right at freezing and there was skim ice over all the side pools. Otherwise, the weather was excellent - almost C.A.F.B. River area at drop off had a good pool riffle ratio with bottom gravel 2" - 6" and water temperature at 0915, 36° F.

Noted two sets of wolf tracks in drop area, and, later on, a bear track heading downstream.

No salmon fry were observed in the upper stream area for the first  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile then it appeared that fry observed were pink fry.

Did manage to catch one steelhead, a male 629 mm in length. He struck at the bobber before he hit the eggs. Was very aggressive. Since I did not catch or have a bite from another fish, I figure this could have been a stray. Then could have been other fish in the area, but they may have been up stream from where I landed and started survey. I doubt that there were many, if any, steelhead in the lower river area where I was surveying. If they were there, Ole Bob Baade, Jr. would have snaked them out. There were no trout or Dolly Vardens in the river at this early date. Could be the case on steelhead that they were not in the river yet at this early date, but I feel if there were any numbers at all in this stream, more fish would have been in the creel.

There were some excellent pools and riffles in the river for salmonid habitat. The SSR #305 indicates all salmon species are in the river except red salmon. (Attached). There are no barriers in this stream. Fish can go up the stream for eight miles.

Commercial Fish was also on this stream ( Paul Novak ) conducting a survey. As noted, on paper 2, they set-up a sampling station on the stream in this location.

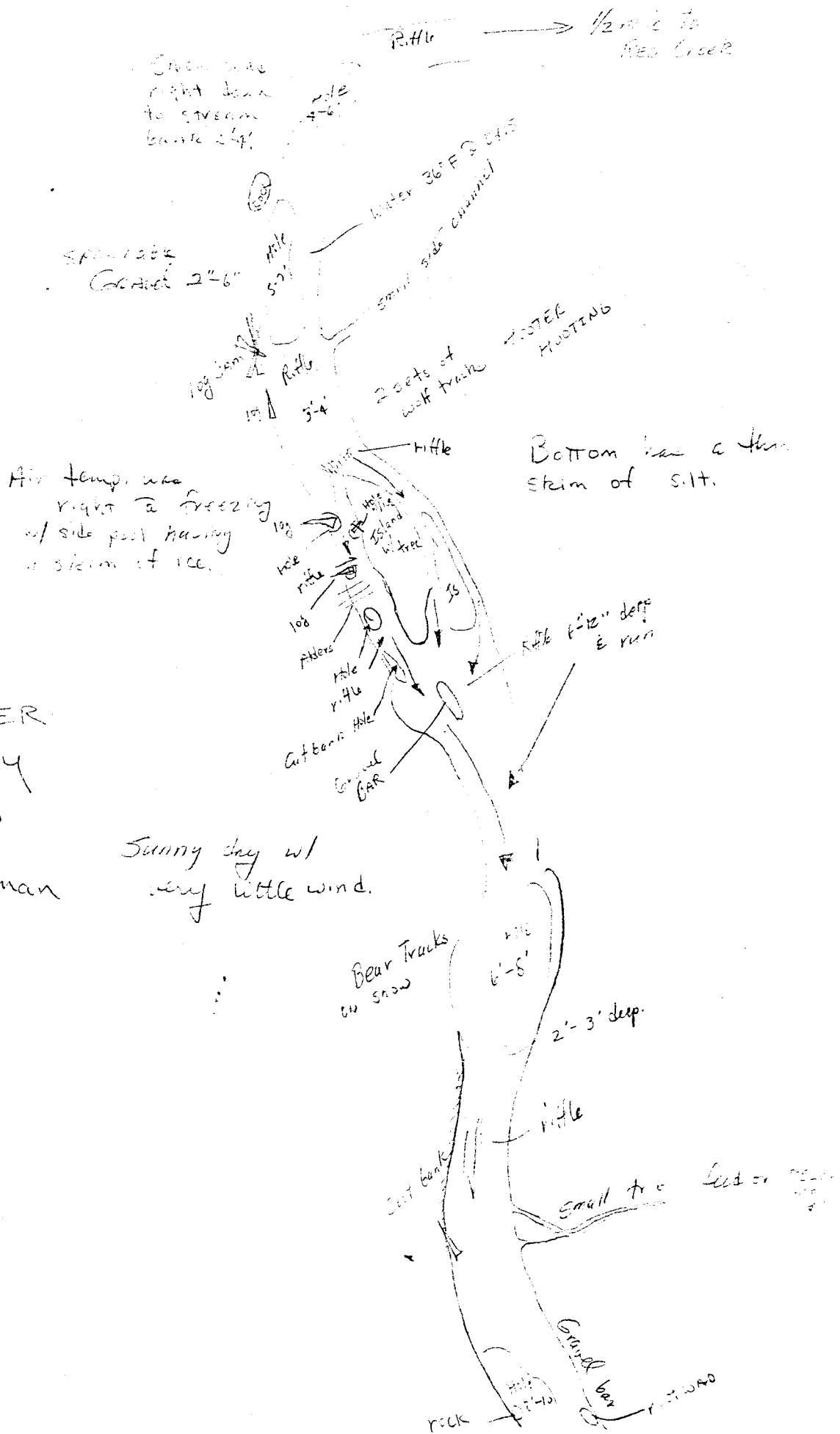
Will send Ed Jones the scale sample for the steelhead for aging.

CC: Armstrong  
Jones  
Novak

KETA RIVER  
FOOT SURVEY  
4-24-75

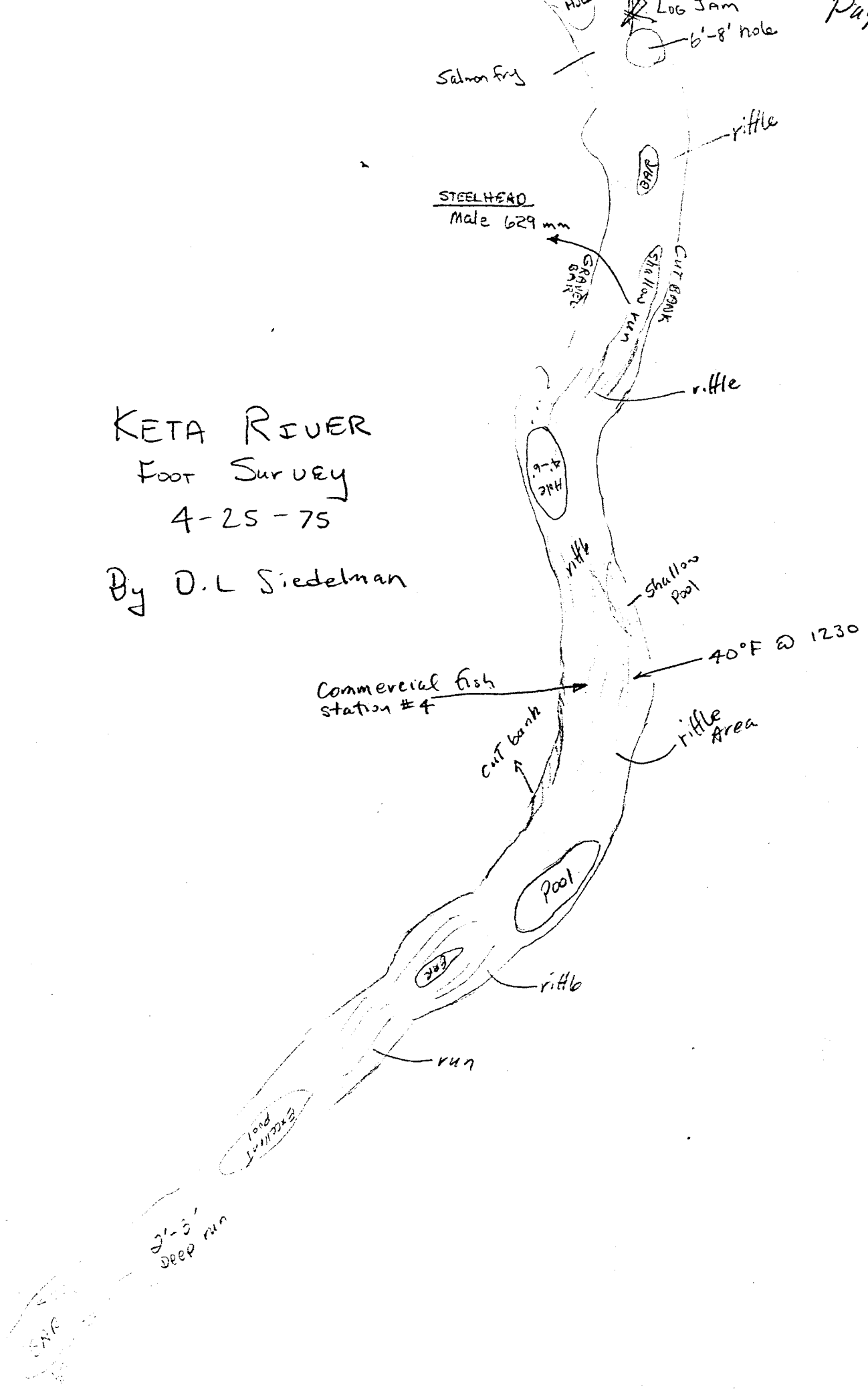
By D. L. Siedelman

Sunny day w/  
very little wind.



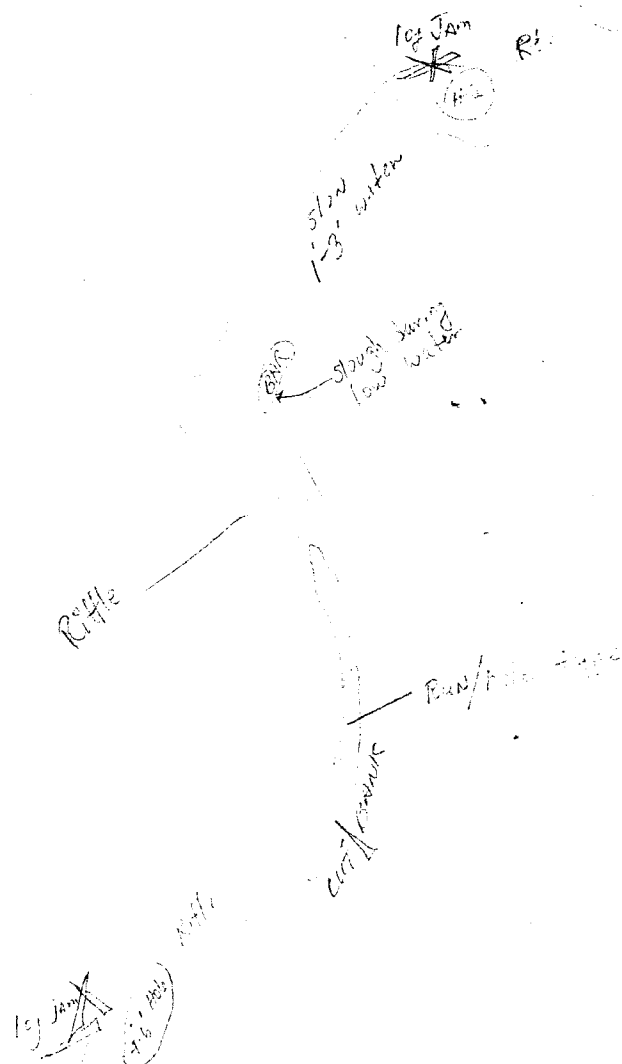
KETA RIVER  
Foot Survey  
4-25-75

By D.L. Siedelman



# KETA RIVER Foot Survey 4-25-75

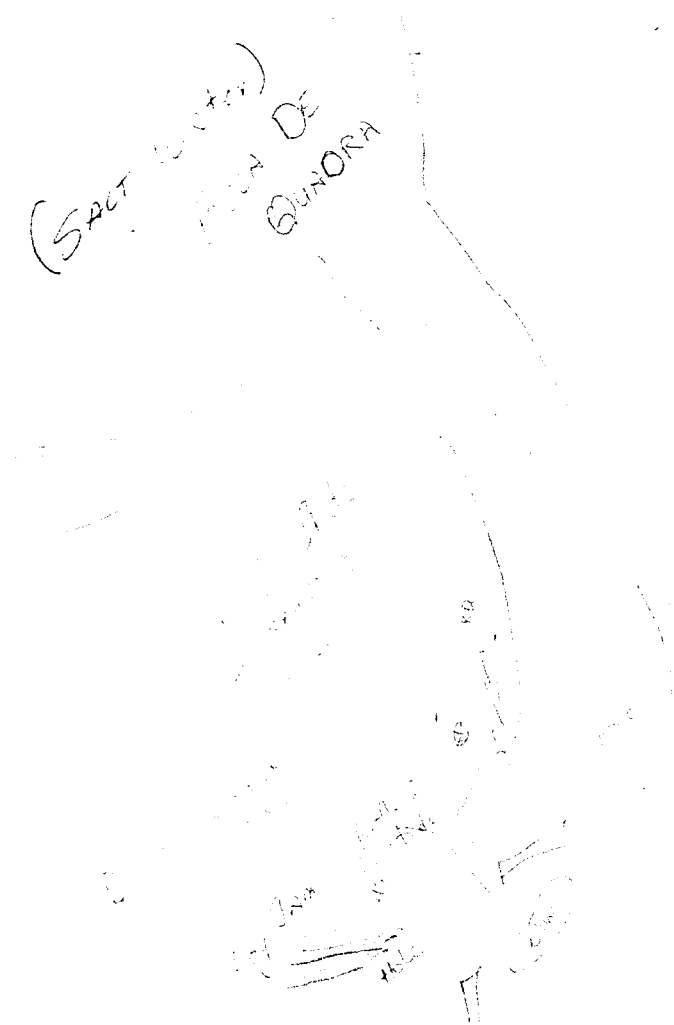
By D.L. Sisdelman

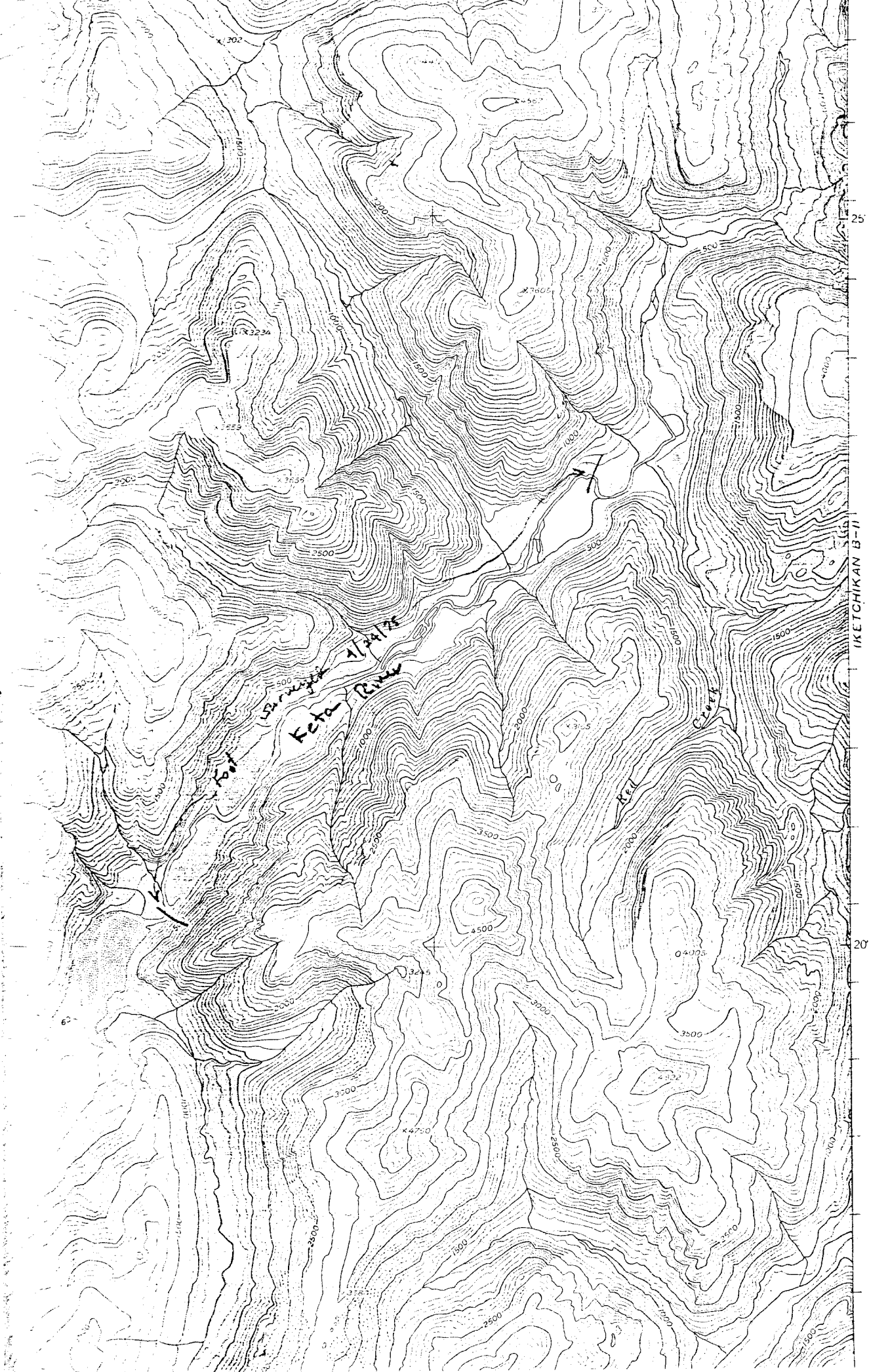


KETA RIVER  
Foot Survey  
4-25-75

By D. L. Sedelman

(SACT 10/10)  
PILA DE  
GUNORA





# KETA RIVER

K 24

Previous No. 21

W130° 29

BOCA DE QUADRA, MAIN ARM, head

**SPECIES** Pink and chum

**OTHER SPECIES** King, coho, and trout

**SPAWNING TIMING** Early. July-Aug.

**ESCAPEMENT MAGNITUDE** 10-100,000

**SPAWNING FACILITIES** Excellent. Over 8 miles of stream are known to be used by salmon.

**TEMPERATURES** Range: 44-48°F., 8/4 to 9/23/49; 45-51°F., 7/15 to 9/9/50; 46-50°F., 7/21 to 8/5/51; 45-51°F., 7/21 to 8/21/52; 48-54°F., 7/21 to 8/17/53.

**DESCRIPTION** Glacial. Even gradient throughout first 8 miles of valley. The valley walls are steep and numerous small stream beds cut the sides. Two fair sized tributaries enter from relatively steep valleys.

**SCENES** Snow fields and several small glaciers. The stream is clear except during floods.

**MOUTH IDENTIFICATION** Enters through a long, wide delta. The stream is at present flowing on the N. side of the delta. A small stream enters the lower intertidal zone from a steep valley on the S. side of the head.

**ANCHORAGE** At any point along the drop-off. Sheltered anchorage is available in a small bight at the S. end of the drop-off just beyond the point where the small stream enters.

**AND SURVEY ROUTES** Foot surveying can be done easily during lower water stages. However, the stream is navigable for four miles during moderate or higher water levels and is preferred for surveys.

**SURVEY NOTES** Aerial surveys may be made either up or downstream. The valley is wide and has no obstructions. Fish are easily visible against the light colored stream gravels. Air surveys are conducted toward the terminal marker to the first large tributary entering from the south. This upper area is usually occupied by spawning king salmon. A pass to the E. fork of the Wilson River lies on the N. side of the valley between high tide and 1 mile downstream from the tributary entering from the south. The pass is broad and unobstructed at an altitude of less than 3,000 feet.

## INTERTIDAL ZONE

**LENGTH** 1.3 miles

**AVERAGE WIDTH/DEPTH** 100'/24"

**CURRENT AND VELOCITIES** Less than 1' at 2' per second

**GRAVEL** Gravel ranging from 1-5" in diameter, some sand in the lower region.

**TIDE LOCATION** In line with the small point on the south side by the small creek.

**TIDE LOCATION** At the base of the riffle where the stream enters the woods. There is a deep pool lying on the S. hillside.

**SPAWNING AREAS** 1. The first pool where the river contacts a logged area on the N. bank. 2. Shallows at lower end of pool below high tide. 3. In the deep pool at high tide.

**SPAWNING AREAS** 1. Riffles below pool at contact with logged area on N. bank. 2. Riffles below pool at lower end.

**GENERAL NOTES** The main channel cuts across the upper intertidal zone from the S. side of the valley to the N. side and then out to the bay on the N. side. A small channel cuts down the intertidal zone from the middle of the upper intertidal stream. Some limited spawning occurs there.

## UPSTREAM

**LENGTH ACCESSIBLE** Over 8 miles

**AVERAGE WIDTH/DEPTH** 80'/30"

**CURRENT AND VELOCITIES** Less than 1' at 2' per second

**GRAVEL** Gravel. Some larger rocks, mostly granite.

**DISTANCE** 2.7 miles.

**IDENTIFICATION** Metal plate placed on tree on N. bank at base of an extensive gravel bar. River around this bar is navigable by river skiff only on moderate or greater level.

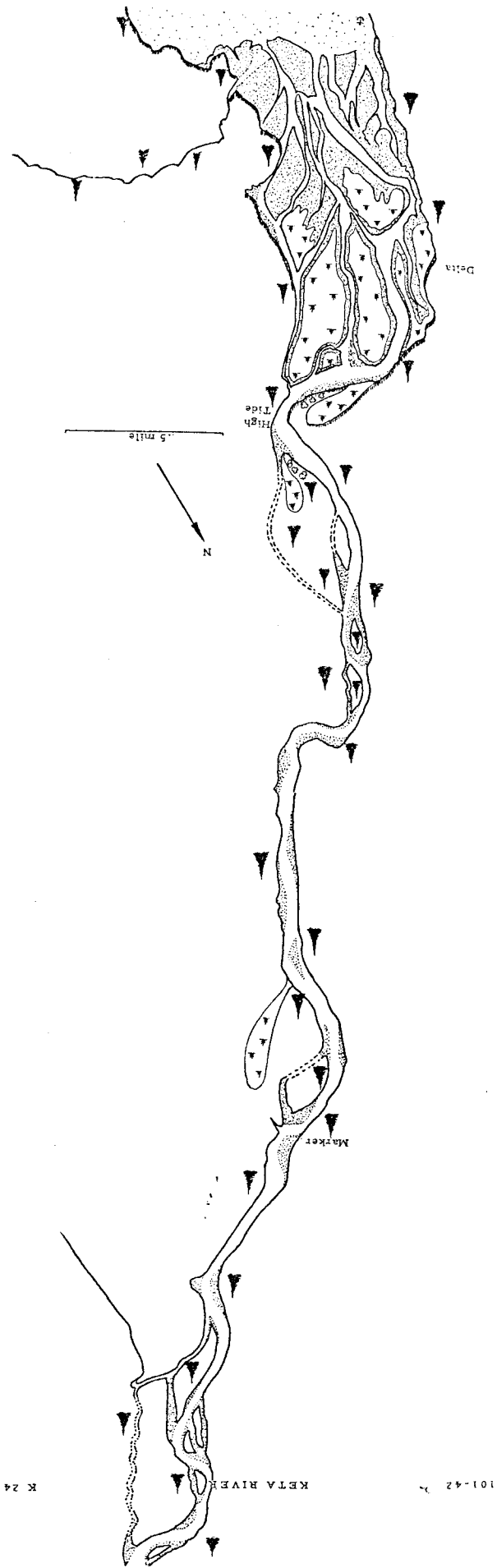
**GRAVEL** River becomes more rapid with coarser bottom beyond 8 miles. However, no barriers have been observed.

**TRIBUTARIES** Numerous small tributaries feed the main stream throughout the valley. However, only two in the first 8 miles are of any size and are usually low during the salmon runs. Neither has been observed with many salmon.

**SPAWNING AREAS** 1. The first pool above high tide. 2. Scattered pools in the first mile. 3. Long pool above head in the river course 1 mile upstream. 4. Scattered pools throughout upper river, including king salmon schooling holes 4 to 7 miles upstream.

**SPAWNING AREAS** 1. All riffles in the first 2.7 miles are used. 2. Areas above marker where the river divides into two. 3. Upper river king salmon areas are usually in the main river in deeper riffles.

**GENERAL NOTES** Past records indicate that this is a river with a large potential capacity for salmon, primarily king and chum. This is one of the better king salmon rivers in this area. Coho runs are later than most surveys and little information is available on the magnitudes using the river.



K 24

KETA RIVER

101-42